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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 21, 2009

Mr. Kevin Keith, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Missouri Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

The Honorable Steve Ehlmann
St. Charles County Executive
Executive Office Building
100 North Third Street, Suite 318
St. Charles, MO 63301

Dear Mr. Keith and County Executive Ehlmann:

I am pleased to endorse the efforts of the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and St. Charles County, Missouri to obtain a TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grant to construct Phase III of Missouri Route 364 (the Page Avenue Extension).

The Missouri Route 364 project has been in various planning stages for nearly forty years and under construction for about a decade. Strongly supported by State, regional and local authorities, this project is an important link in the transportation network for the greater St. Louis region. Phase I is essentially complete; Phase II is under construction; and final design work and right-of-way acquisition for Phase III are underway.

When completed, the MO Route 364 project will produce significant benefits not only for the region, but also for the nation:

- As a reliever for I-70 to the north and I-64 to the south, it will reduce traffic congestion along these routes, allow vehicles to run at optimum efficiency, and improve regional air quality.
- By increasing trip efficiency and reducing travel times, it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- It will provide motorists with an alternate route when inspection or maintenance is scheduled for the other Missouri River bridges;

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- MO Route 364 will enhance system operations during the bridge replacement on Interstate 64 (planned) and potentially (pending scheduling) when structural improvements and deck replacement are performed for the Missouri River bridge on Interstate 70 (currently projected at \$70 million beginning in 2012).
- It will serve as a freeway connector between Interstate 270 and Interstate 64.
- It will promote more efficient freight movement on Interstate 70 by reducing auto traffic on that transcontinental highway and by providing a more direct route for trucks to and from many destinations in St. Charles and St. Louis Counties.
- It will facilitate better access to employment opportunities and retraining facilities by the region's work force;
- It will promote long term economic growth in underutilized properties.

Your tireless efforts to bring environmentally responsible transportation solutions and economic development to the region are noteworthy, particularly because the benefits also will extend to the State of Missouri and to the nation. I am looking forward to seeing this important project completed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Todd Akin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

W. Todd Akin
Member of Congress